

APPENDIX D – AGENCY COORDINATION - GENERAL



United States Department of Agriculture
Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

September 25, 2019

Re: USDA NEPA Review for Building Demolition at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Eastern Business Service Center (EBSC) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed removal of buildings at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, Maryland. Demolition of these structures, many in severe disrepair, supports USDA's effort to reduce maintenance costs, and promotes BARC's redevelopment to support other regional and national research opportunities. USDA is seeking agency and public input in developing a staged plan for removal of a number of BARC buildings.

USDA has retained LSY Architects and Lab Planners (LSY) and Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. (Burns & McDonnell) to conduct the environmental review and prepare the EA for the proposed action. As part of the EA, Burns & McDonnell needs your help to identify social, cultural, and natural resources in the proposed action study area. Your input will help shape the direct and indirect effects the proposed action may have on those resources. It will also help identify any studies and mitigation or permits required before demolition is approved. The study team will use your input to evaluate impacts in the following categories:

- Land use;
- Visual environment;
- Air quality and noise;
- Soils and geology;
- Wetlands and waters of the United States;
- Vegetation, wildlife, and fisheries (threatened and endangered species);
- Socioeconomics (population, employment, growth, and development);
- Hazardous materials and waste disposal;
- Cultural resources (historic and archaeological);
- Transportation and roads (access and traffic patterns);
- Safety and security; and
- Cumulative effects.

USDA welcomes comments about the proposed action related to your agency's regulatory jurisdiction or area of expertise. Please refer to the enclosed study area map of BARC.

Please provide your agency's input no later than October 25, 2019.

You may provide comments by email to scannonmackey@burnsmcd.com or by mail to:

Shari Cannon-Mackey, CEP, ENV SP
Burns & McDonnell
8911 N. Capital of Texas Highway
Building 3, Suite 3100
Austin, Texas 78759



Safety, Occupational Health, and Environmental Staff
10300 Baltimore Avenue, Bldg 003, Room 121
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325

If you have any questions about this project, please contact me at (301) 504-6025 or by email at Dana.Jackson@ars.usda.gov. Thanks.

Sincerely,



Dana S. Jackson, PG
Environmental Management Coordinator
USDA, ARS, BARC

Enclosure: Study Area Map

CC: Dana Jackson, USDA, ARS, BARC
Heather Johnson, LSY Architects and Lab Planners
Steve Thornhill, Burns & McDonnell

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Robert S. McCord, Secretary
Sandy Schrader, Deputy Secretary

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

October 10, 2019

Dana Jackson
Environmental Management Coordinator
USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Safety, Occupational Health, and Environmental Staff
10300 Baltimore Avenue
Building 003, Room 121
Beltsville, MD 20705

Re: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Building Demolitions
Prince George's County, MD

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Thank you for your recent letter, dated September 25, 2019 and received by the Maryland Historical Trust (Trust) on September 30, 2019, regarding the above-referenced initiative.

The letter states that USDA is preparing an Environmental Assessment pursuant to NEPA to address the proposed removal of buildings at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) and requested information relevant to our agency's area of expertise - cultural resources (historic and archeological sites). In conjunction with its NEPA efforts, USDA/BARC will need to consult with the Trust, Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office, and consider the undertaking's effects on historic and archeological properties, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this initiative and offer the following preliminary comments.

USDA/BARC has completed extensive efforts to identify its historic resources over the last 20+ years, in consultation with the Trust. The entire Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, recorded in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as PG: 62-14, is a historic district which BARC determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, with concurrence from the Trust. The Determination of Eligibility documentation provides a succinct statement of the property's significance:

The BARC is eligible under Criterion A as an important site which reflects the development of a national center for agricultural experimentation and testing. It is the main research facility of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is the leading and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. Government acquisition began in 1910, and grew rapidly with the Depression-era programs of the 1930s and 1940s. Included within the complex are areas for the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, the Livestock and Poultry Science Institute, the Natural Resources Institute, and Plant Sciences Institute. The diversity of the scientific research conducted at BARC has influenced many aspects of 20th century living for the farmer as well as the consumer. The history and development of the agricultural research facility reflects New Deal policies and programs. The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center is also eligible under Criterion C. Because the mission of the facility has remained constant over the years, the landscape reflects a strong level of integrity. The physical appearance of BARC was strongly influenced in the 1930s by the planning team of A.D. Taylor, landscape architect, and Delos Smith, architect. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the individual bureaus at BARC played important roles in shaping the landscape as well. Contributing elements of the landscape include major paved roads, including Powder Mill Road, minor service roads, field and research crops, pasture lands, seasonal ponds, forests, sustainable meadows, other landscape features, and buildings.

Maryland Historical Trust • 100 Community Place • Crownsville • Maryland • 21032

Tel: 410.697.9591 • toll free 877.767.6272 • TTY users: Maryland Relay • MHT.Maryland.gov

Dana Jackson
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Building Demolitions
October 11, 2019
Page 2 of 2

In addition to its historic buildings and landscape elements, the BARC facility contains numerous inventoried archeological sites, as well as the likely potential for sites that have not yet been identified, reflecting the property's long span of human occupation and uses from prehistoric through historic time periods.

The recent letter provided few details regarding the proposed demolitions and only a general overview map of the campus. Many of the buildings slated for demolition are likely historic resources that contribute to the district. The exact nature, extent, and specific locations of the proposed demolitions remains unknown to our agency at this time. Nevertheless, the anticipated demolition program will certainly have an effect on BARC's historic properties.

Under Section 106, BARC has the responsibility to consider the effects of its undertakings on historic properties and to consult with the Trust, as well as other interested parties, to develop effective ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate, any adverse effects on historic properties. We await formal initiation of the Section 106 consultation from USDA/BARC for this undertaking. The submittal should provide essential information and details regarding the undertaking (description, maps, list of involved buildings, status of the buildings' National Register eligibility, alternatives under consideration, and plans to notify consulting parties and the public) pursuant to the procedures in the Section 106 regulations 36 CFR Part 800.

We look forward to further consultation with USDA/BARC and other involved parties to successfully complete the Section 106 review of the proposed building demolition initiative. If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact me at beth.cole@maryland.gov or 410-697-9541. Thank you for providing us this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Beth Cole
Administrator, Project Review and Compliance

BC/201904839

cc: Christopher Bentley (BARC / christopher.bentley@usda.gov)
Claudette Joyner (BARC / claudette.joyner@ars.usda.gov)
Shari Cannon-Mackey (Burns & McDonnell / scannonmackey@burnsmcd.com)
Katharine Kerr (ACHP / kkerr@achp.gov)



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

October 17, 2019

Ms. Shari Cannon-Mackey
Burns & McDonnell
8911 N. Capital of Texas Highway
Building 3, Suite 3100
Austin, TX 78759

**RE: Environmental Review for USDA Building Demolition at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center:
4 sites, Prince George's County, Maryland.**

Dear Ms. Cannon-Mackey:

For all four sites as shown on your map, the Wildlife and Heritage Service has determined that there are no official State or Federal records for listed plant or animal species within the delineated area shown on the map provided. As a result, we have no specific concerns regarding potential impacts or recommendations for protection measures at this time. Please let us know however if the limits of proposed disturbance or overall site boundaries change and we will provide you with an updated evaluation.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review this project. If you should have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at (410) 260-8573.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Byrne,
Environmental Review Coordinator
Wildlife and Heritage Service
MD Dept. of Natural Resources

ER# 2019.1623.pg
Cc: D. Jackson, BARC

Cannon-Mackey, Shari

From: Cullen, Kathleen <kathleen_cullen@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 12:54 PM
To: Cannon-Mackey, Shari
Subject: FWS Review of USDA Building Demolition project

Hi Shari-

We received your information regarding the USDA ARS building demolition project taking place in Beltsville, MD. There are no federally listed species expected to occur at that site, so this project will have "no effect" on listed species. Thank you for providing your project for review. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Kathleen

--

Kathleen Cullen
US Fish & Wildlife Service - Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Dr, Annapolis MD, 21401
410-573-4579 - kathleen_cullen@fws.gov

Certificate of Publication

State Of MARYLAND }
County of PRINCE GEORGE'S } SS

Carman Thornton, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Legal Advertising Representative of PRINCE GEORGE'S SENTINEL, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in SEABROOK, PRINCE GEORGE'S, MARYLAND; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on

October 10, 2019

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Subscribed to and sworn to me this 10th day of
October 2019,

PUBLIC NOTICE - Request for Public Input Concerning the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment Addressing the Removal of Buildings at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Eastern Business Service Center (EBSC) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed removal of buildings at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, Maryland. Demolition of these structures, many in severe disrepair, supports USDA's effort to reduce impact on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by eliminating these impervious surfaces. BARC's MS4 Permit requires a 20-percent reduction of all impervious surface by 2025. In addition to reducing impervious surfaces, BARC is also looking to benefit by reducing facility maintenance costs, and by promoting BARC redevelopment necessary to support research opportunities.

The USDA invites the public, governmental agencies, and other interested parties to comment about the scope of the environmental review. The input received will help develop a staged plan for removal of buildings across the BARC facility and will also help assess the potential direct and indirect effects the proposed building demolition may have on BARC resources. Please provide comments in writing, within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice, as outlined below.

Submit written comments to:

Shari Cannon-Mackey, CEP, ENV SP, Burns & McDonnell, 8911 North Capital of Texas Highway, Building 3, Suite 3100, Austin, Texas 78759.

For further information, please contact:

Dana S. Jackson, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Agricultural Resource Service, Beltsville Agricultural Resource Center, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, BLDG 426 BARC-EAST, Beltsville, Maryland 20705 or dana.jackson@usda.gov.

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BURNS & MCDONNELL
8911 N CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
BLDG 3 SUITE 3100
AUSTIN, TX 78759

The Prince George's Post

NEWSPAPER PUBLIC NOTICE
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Greenbelt Co-operative Publishing Assoc., Inc.
Publishers of the Greenbelt News Review

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100
Greenbelt, MD 20770

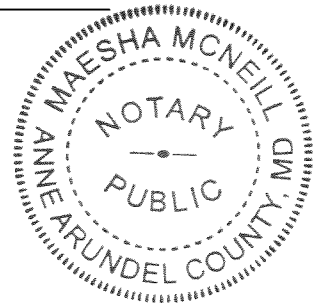
October 24, 2019

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that a legal notice "Newspaper Public Notice" was published in the Greenbelt News Review, ONE TIME, said publication appearing on October 10, 2019. A copy of this notice is attached.

The News Review is located in Prince George's County, Md.

Diane C. Oberg

BY: Diane Oberg
Accounts Manager
Greenbelt News Review



Co-op Month

Members and Others Benefit From Our Local Cooperatives

by Leta Mach

Co-op Month has been celebrated annually in October across the U.S. for more than half a century. It is a time for cooperatives to reflect on their shared principles and to educate others about the value of belonging to a cooperative. In honor of Co-op Month, here is the second of three co-op related articles to be published in the News Review.

Member Participation

It is crucial to the success of a cooperative that members use its services. Using the local cooperative is also good for the local economy. For every \$100 spent locally, roughly \$68 to \$73 is returned to local activity because locally-owned businesses often purchase from other local businesses, service providers and farms. Purchasing local helps grow other businesses as well as the region's tax base.

As not-for-profit organizations, credit unions generally offer better rates than for-profit banks. Members of Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) can find affordable homes. Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy members receive an annual patronage dividend based on the financial performance of the store. Likewise, members of the Greenbelt News Review may receive a dividend that depends upon the financial success of the paper. The volunteer work of Greenbelt Nursery School members helps the school provide high-quality early childhood education at a moderate cost. Greenbelt MakersSpace Cooperative members save money by learning how to repair equipment.

Education and Training

Education, training and information is the principle that is crucial to the continued success of cooperative businesses. Greenbelt co-ops provide this in many ways with a highlight being participation in the Greenbelt Cooperative Alliance to explain cooperative business to both co-op members and non-members. In addition to fulfilling its purpose of disseminating information,

the Greenbelt News Review also works with college interns to further their education. The Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy holds sampling of products and offers consumer information, including factsheets and recipes. GHI sends email and printed newsletters and holds town hall meetings on relevant topics. The Greenbelt Federal Credit Union has financial counseling and education for members through GreenPath Financial Wellness and in its quarterly newsletters. The New Deal Café hosts the monthly Reel and Meal at the New Deal film series exploring vital environmental, animal rights and social justice issues followed by a discussion with experts and/or filmmakers on the subject of the film. The café is also a meeting place for city, county, legislative district and state elected officials to meet with constituents. Greenbelt MakersSpace holds regular sessions to help people learn how to repair equipment. And the purpose of Greenbelt Nursery School is to provide an enriching educational environment for young children and their parents.

Parents Night Out

Greenbelt Recreation Arts hosts a childcare art activity on the second Friday of every month. Drop the kids with us, then go have a relaxing night out. While parents are having dinner at their favorite restaurant, their children will enjoy art activities, a pizza dinner and a movie. Parents are welcome to drop their child(ren) off for all or part of the time. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. All children must be potty-trained to participate. Friday, October 11, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., ages 4 to 12. Advance registration required. For more information, contact Amanda Larsen at alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2062.

ERHS Homecoming Festivities End with Football Team Defeat

by Ivan Torres

Students, parents, residents and alumni gathered at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School football field on Friday, October 4 for the annual homecoming parade.

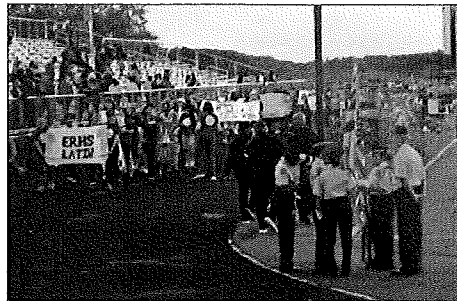
The parade is one event out of a week full of homecoming festivities in which Roosevelt students participate. Each day had its own theme. Monday was Manic Monday, Tuesday was Tie Dye Tuesday, Wednesday was Wild West Wednesday, Thursday was Nickelodeon Shows day and Friday was Class Color day.

The parade showcased student organizations from around the school such as JROTC, the Latin Honor Society, the K Club and all the representative class councils. As each organization one by one was announced on ERHS's new speaker system, each group walked around the track, flashed banners at the crowd and did chants featuring characteristics and traits of their group.

"The homecoming parade is my favorite event of the school year and as a senior, it was a bittersweet feeling that this is my last one," a representative from the senior class council stated.

"Class Color day is the most exciting Homecoming event because you have all the classes repping at the pep rally," said a sophomore JROTC cadet.

The homecoming football game immediately followed the parade to close this year's homecoming festivities. ERHS was defeated 42-14 by Oxon Hill High School.



Eleanor Roosevelt High School clubs march in the homecoming parade.



From left, Latin Honor Society members David Romero, Nathalie Trouba (riding in chariot), Min Nguyen and Michael Deras Gomez march in the ERHS homecoming parade.

October Art Share

Local artists are invited to meet up on Sunday, October 13 from 2 to 3 p.m. in Room 113 of the Community Center. This event is for teens and adults. Bring one to three pieces in any medium and join in a constructive and informal discussion of everyone's work. All experience levels welcome.



Greenbelt Cooperative Alliance Celebrate Co-op Month 2019 in Greenbelt

Co-op Month will be celebrated throughout October with a GCA banner strung across some Greenbelt roads, a display in the Greenbelt Library, Co-op trivia slides shown in the Old Greenbelt Theatre, interviews with local co-ops aired by GATE and articles and event calendar in this paper.

- Wednesday October 16**
7-9 GHI Volunteer Appreciation Social (GHI)
Trivia Night (NDC)
- Thursday October 17**
International Credit Union Day,
Refreshments in the lobby (GFCU)
- Friday October 18**
4-7 pm Co-op Beer & Co-op Wine Tasting 4-7
(GCS&P)
- Saturday October 19**
9 am - noon Shredding Day (GFCU)
- Sunday October 20**
2-4 p.m. Annual Meeting (GNR)
- Thursday October 24**
9 am-9 pm One Day Meat Sale (GCS&P)
- Friday October 25**
4-7 pm Members Favorite Wine Tasting
(GCS&P)
- Thursday October 31**
10:30 - 11:30 am Radio Show (NDC)

Abbreviations:
(GCA) Greenbelt Cooperative Alliance;
(GCS&P) Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy;
(GFCU) Greenbelt Federal Credit Union;
(GHI) Greenbelt Homes Inc.
(GMS) Greenbelt Maker Space;
(GNS) Greenbelt Nursery School;
(GNR) Greenbelt News Review;
(NDC) New Deal Café.

NEWSPAPER PUBLIC NOTICE

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